

The following are the measurements I took almost immediately afterwards:—

	1st, male.	2nd, female.
	Inches.	Inches.
Length from tip of nose to tip of tail, straight ...	78	68
" following the curves of back, &c. ...	83	70
Length of tail	29 $\frac{3}{4}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$
" head from tip of nose to tip of nape...	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
Girth of upper forearm	10	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
" body	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Height at shoulder, standing position	26	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
" paw stretched out	29	24 $\frac{3}{4}$
Length of hind leg from stifle joint to tip of paw...	10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$

You will notice that in the male the girth of the forearm and length of hind leg are the same, 10" ; but in the female the girth of the forearm is one inch less than the length of the hind leg.

The next night I sat up again over the same kill, but as this was my third night up I was very sleepy indeed. I had been unable to sleep during the day on account of the heat ; consequently at 9-30 p.m. I fell asleep and did not wake till exactly midnight. I then discovered the second hind leg of the goat had been eaten and that it had also been moved about 4 yards ; I managed to keep awake after this, and at 12-58 a panther came and started to eat, but I missed both barrels, and he never came again, and at 5-45 a.m. I got down from the *machhaan*.

This, I think, accounts for five panthers at one kill in one night.

There were the two I shot ; and the half-grown cub and the wounded one (4) which cannot have been either of those I shot later, as both of them had only one wound ; also there was the one that came first of all at 8-3 p.m. Now this may possibly have been the one I wounded later, or one of those I shot, but if either of these be the case, how can the one that came the second night be accounted, as it was much too big to be the half-grown cub ? If it had anything to do with the killing of the goat it would in all probability have come the first night, or else it shows that panthers will eat carrion. It may possibly have been the wounded one, but as it was only evidently slightly wounded it would be quite able to kill food for itself. On the second night it did not appear to have anything the matter with it, and did not walk at all lame. Of course it is well known that panthers will return to a kill after having been shot at from a *machhaan*, but I did not know that a wounded beast would do so.

M. YOUNG,

York and Lancashire Regiment.

MHOW (C. I.), May 1904.

No. XXXII.—A VIPERINE SNAKE WHICH IS OVIPAROUS.

I believe it is generally accepted that the Vipers are viviparous. Now I have had sent to me by Father Bertrand, of the Theological Seminary at Kursecong, a cluster of some 10 eggs, from 2 of which the young ones issued forth while

he and some other Fathers were examining them. On examining them I found them to belong to the *Crotaline*—they being 2 *Trimeresurus monticola*. They are about 6 inches long, pale yellow, and show the full markings of the grown-up specimens but slightly paler; the head scales as well as those of the body are fully developed. In the other eggs you can make out the outlines of the young snakes quite clearly. I shall be glad to send you one of the two young snakes with the shell or rather skin of the egg from which it came forth, as also an egg containing a young one if you wish it.

G. A. MILLER.

St. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING,
10th May 1904.

The specimens above referred to have arrived, and as Mr. Miller is perfectly correct in his identification we now possess the important evidence that this Viperine Snake (*Trimeresurus monticola*), or as it is now called *Lachesis monticola*, is oviparous.

EDITORS.